

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 12 and 14 – 20.
2. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6.
3. Amend claim 1 to include therein the limitations of allowable claim 5 and intermediate dependent claim 3.
4. Amend claims 4, 6 – 9 to depend directly on independent claim 1.
5. Cancel claims 3, 5 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

In view of the foregoing amendments and cancellations, and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

SHINOHARA et al
Serial No. 10/777,190

Atty Dkt: 900-492
Art Unit: 2828

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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